



Fiscal Year
2025

*Alabama Department of
Archives & History*

Annual Report

Alabama Department of Archives & History

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2025

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> *Alabama Military Stories* dedication,
November 6, 2025.

Collect. Preserve. Share.

Since 1901, the Alabama Department of Archives & History (ADAH) has been the home of Alabama history. The first state-funded historical agency in the United States, the ADAH was established to collect and preserve the historical materials of the people of Alabama, and to use that material in sharing their stories. For nearly 125 years, the ADAH has grown both in its capacity and its approach to accomplish that mission.

Located in Montgomery, the ADAH serves our state as the principal repository for materials ranging from official government records to papers, photographs, and recordings created in the private sector. It also serves as an educational center by offering programs, resources, and training for educators, government officials, students, researchers, and history enthusiasts. The immersive learning environment of the ADAH's Museum of Alabama provides a welcoming and engaging space for visitors of all ages and backgrounds to explore Alabama's story.



ADAH Board of Trustees

The Alabama Legislature created the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) in 1901 and charged its governing Board of Trustees with selecting board members who must be confirmed by the State Senate for each six-year term they serve. The Board of Trustees consists of two members from each congressional district, two at-large members, and the Governor or her designee. Possessing diverse backgrounds and politics, our trustees share an interest in Alabama history, a commitment to public service, and a belief in the mission of the ADAH as a place of stewardship and education. The Board meets quarterly.



Delores R. Boyd, Chair
7th Congressional District



Julian D. Butler, Vice Chair
5th Congressional District



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1st Congressional District



Elizabeth P. Stevens
1st Congressional District



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2nd Congressional District



Gale Saxon Main
2nd Congressional District



Fred D. Gray
3rd Congressional District



Barbara Patton
3rd Congressional District



Bobby M. Junkins
4th Congressional District



Alyce M. Spruell
4th Congressional District



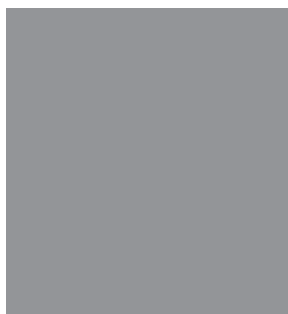
C. Lynwood Smith
5th Congressional District



Majella Chube Hamilton
6th Congressional District



Garland Cook Smith
6th Congressional District



Vacant
7th Congressional District



Leigh Davis
At-Large



Marcus Reid
At-Large



Gov. Kay Ivey
Ex Officio



The Department of Archives and History is pleased to share this report of the agency's service to Alabamians during Fiscal Year 2025, the last full year ahead of the Archives' 125th anniversary in March 2026.

The Archives exists to collect, preserve, and share the history of our state, and to assist other government and nonprofit entities engaged in related work at the state and local levels. This work brings us into contact with an amazing array of Alabamians—courthouse clerks, K-12 educators, genealogists, county historical societies, and elected officials—committed to the idea that the past matters in our lives today, and that it is an inheritance to be shared by all the people of our state.

The following pages contain data on how this work is undertaken, most often through the recurring delivery of services to audiences who rely on them year to year. Each academic calendar, for example, brings new classes of K-12 students to Montgomery to learn about their history and government. It requires sustained effort to provide museum tours that consistently receive scores of "excellent" from classroom teachers.

Similarly, our records management team regularly encounters new faces in the county and municipal offices with whom we collaborate on government records retention. Each year, they renew and improve our services through in-person and online records training. Rates of reporting on records management tasks tell us where additional time and resources are needed.

In other instances, we measure success by chipping away at very large, long-term initiatives. These include digitization of major collections, from those transmitted by government agencies to news footage spanning the second half of the 20th century. Together, these collections provide a powerful lens through which to study our history. Steady, careful progress brings more content online each year.

Among our most visible major initiatives is a wonderful set of improvements to the Museum of Alabama begun in 2022 and advanced nearly to completion in 2025. A period of intense construction required the closure of the museum May through October, but the end results have certainly justified the inconvenience. As FY25 concluded, we were able to provide previews of the updated galleries to advisors, legislators, and other supporters who offered glowing reviews.

Alabama Military Stories, a new gallery of rotating exhibits, opened on November 6, 2025. Governor Kay Ivey was joined by active-duty service members, veterans, and family members in making remarks honoring Alabama's extraordinary military

history and the gallery's themes of service, community, and legacy. The speakers' comments affirmed our intent to place the stories of people first—the bravery of those in uniform, the sacrifices shared by their families, and the ongoing contributions of veterans to their communities. The historical materials in the exhibits—uniforms, weapons, letters, and photographs—all serve as conduits for understanding the experiences of Alabamians.

Also brand new is a *Children's Gallery* that has quickly become a magnet for families with young children. Designed for visitors ages two to ten, the gallery transforms our ability to deliver the basics of good social studies education: knowledge of the core institutions in our society, awareness of the natural resources and geography of our state, and familiarity with the contributions made by Alabamians to our nation.

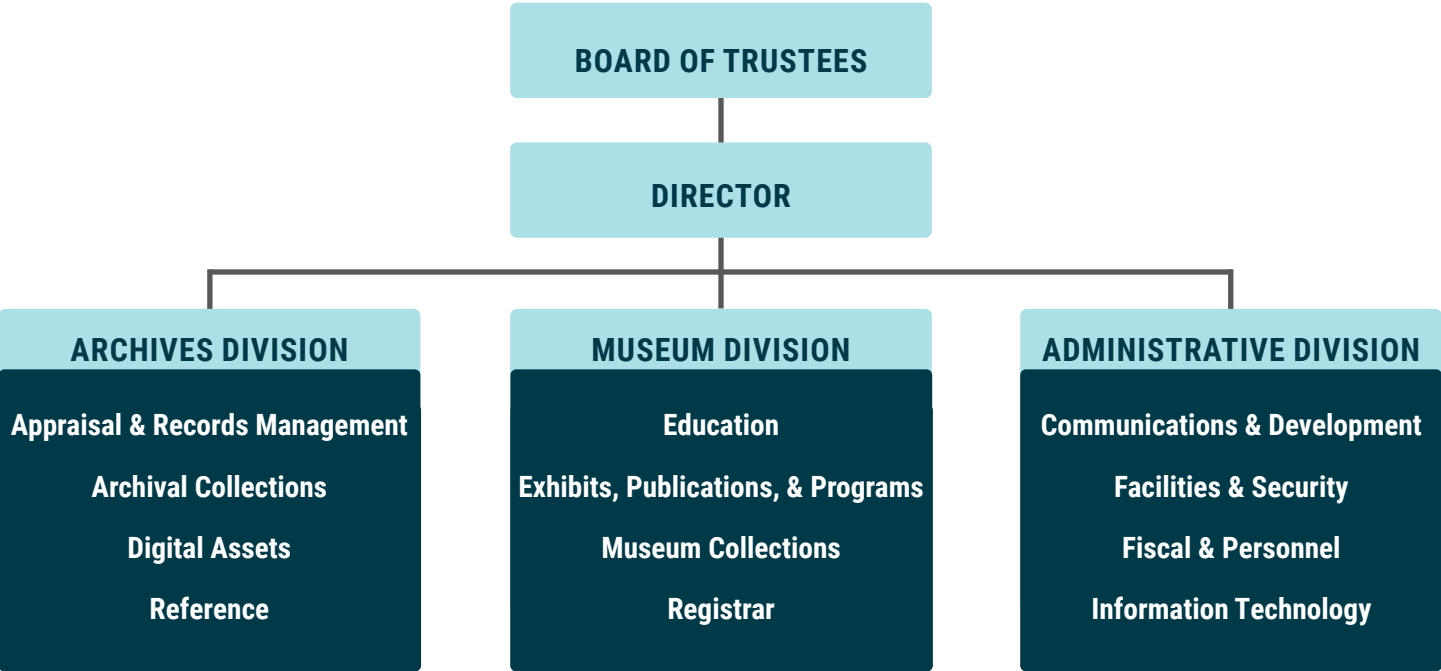
The design team prioritized *learning through play* in creating spaces inspired by historical settings and Alabama's rich natural environment. The gallery's consistent emphasis on *place* means that visitors' connections with history are not merely about the past generally, but about Alabama specifically. One large wall provides a tour of the state's geographical and biological diversity, from the mountains to the beaches. Another features the natural and manufactured products to be found in various parts of Alabama. The objective is to help cultivate a sense of connection to our home state, and therefore a sense of commitment to its wellbeing. We hope you will bring a young Alabamian to explore this wonderful new resource soon.

Vital to our storytelling capacity is our work to acquire, process, and conserve additions to the agency's collections. Newly acquired materials include the letter sweater of Wilbur Jackson of Ozark, the first African American football player on scholarship at the University of Alabama; a field organ brought home from World War II by Roy Gene Bartlett of Irondale; and extraordinary quilts made by women in the Scarborough family of Coffee County, to name only a few.

Items receiving conservation for display included the uniform of Confederate naval officer Sardine Graham Stone of Mobile; World War I flags of the 167th and 366th infantry regiments, and the museum's treasured full-length portrait of William McIntosh. Other collections that were processed in FY25 will be part of future displays in *Alabama Military Stories*.

Charts and images are useful for providing a sense of the scope and quality of work performed at the Archives, but there truly is no substitute for an in-person visit. We hope you will put one on your calendar soon.

Organization of the ADAH



Staffing in FY25:



The Home of Alabama History ➡

624 WASHINGTON AVENUE has been the ADAH's home since 1940, when the building opened to serve as the Archives and Alabama's World War Memorial. Additions to the building in 1974 and 2005 provided more space for records storage, exhibits, and educational and public programming. The most recent expansion included a state-of-the-art research room and paved the way for an overhaul of the Archives' exhibit spaces, resulting in the Smithsonian-quality Museum of Alabama. In FY24, the ADAH purchased a property on an adjacent block to expand its capacity for collections storage and preservation. The FY25 Financial Summary on the next page includes expenses and encumbrances related to the renovation of the **Archives Annex**.

ADAH Financial Summary FY 2025

	GENERAL FUND	EDUCATION TRUST FUND	ARCHIVES SERVICES FUND	RESTRICTED FUNDS	FEDERAL GRANTS	TOTAL
REVENUE						
Prior Year Closing Balances		6,596,416	729,662	16,977		7,343,055
FY25 Appropriations	3,014,804	7,806,423				10,821,227
Generated Revenue			401,640	2,500		404,140
TOTAL	\$3,014,804	\$14,402,839	\$1,131,302	\$19,477	\$0	\$18,568,422
OPERATIONS EXPENSE						
Personnel		3,827,061	52,982			3,880,043
Benefits		1,555,063	25,532			1,580,595
In-State Travel		12,821				12,821
Out-of-State Travel		15,987				15,987
Repairs		7,876				7,876
Rentals	2,916,935	32,545	237,642			3,187,122
Utilities		172,448	23,800			196,248
Professional Services		362,984	18,170			381,154
Supplies		340,306	4,810			345,116
Transportation Operations		7,750				7,750
Grants		136,792				136,792
Equipment		79,227				79,227
TOTAL	\$2,916,935	\$6,550,860	\$362,936	\$0	\$0	\$9,830,731
OPERATIONS CARRY FORWARD	\$97,869	\$0	\$768,366	\$19,477	\$0	\$885,712
CAPITAL PROJECTS EXPENDED & ENCUMBERED						
Archives Annex Renovation Expended		16,549				16,549
Museum of Alabama Updates Expended		3,602,318				3,602,318
Museum of Alabama Updates Encumbered*		2,241,138				2,241,138
TOTAL		\$5,860,005				\$5,860,005
CAPITAL PROJECTS CARRY FORWARD**		\$1,991,973				\$1,991,973

* Includes FY26 Q1 amendments to reflect total remaining cost

** Available for ongoing Annex renovation

FY 2025 By the Numbers

> Collections

143

Government Records
Collections Acquired



115

Special Collections
Acquired

80

Artifact Collections Acquired,
Totaling **955 Objects**



128

Archival Collections
Processed, Totaling
Over 403 Cubic Feet

170

Electronic Records
Collections Processed,
Totaling **7.35 Gigabytes**



73,041

Cubic Feet in Total
Archival Collections

7,902

Gigabytes in Total Electronic
Records Holdings

>400K

Artifacts in Total Museum
Collections

> Access

1,082

Patrons Visited the
EBSCO Research Room

4,081

Email, Mail, & Phone
Inquiries Answered



245,549

Users Browsed Digital
Collections

121,853

New Digital Files Created



976,855

Digitized Items Now
Available Online



937 Hours
of WSFA-TV's
Historical News
Footage Now Online

9,847

Alabama Media
Group Photographs
Now Online

> Records Management & Museum Services

7

State Agency
RDAs Approved



1,138

People Attended
71 Training Sessions
on Records Management

76

Local Organizations
Representing
35 Counties Served by
Museum Services Staff

> Alabama Department of Archives & History

> Museum of Alabama

21,624

People Visited
the Museum



16,458

K-12 Visitors Toured
on Field Trips

98%

Of Teachers Surveyed
Rated Tour Experience
as "Excellent"



> K-12 Outreach

3,192

Students Participated in
Virtual Field Trips

118

Educators Attended an
Alabama History Institute



1,400

K-12 Students Used a
Traveling Backpack

> Public Programs



25

Public Programs Presented,
Totaling **32 Hours**

1,417

People Attended a
Live Public Program

3,724

Viewers of FY25 Program
Recordings on YouTube

> Outreach & Promotion

30,617

Facebook
Followers

3,255

X (Twitter)
Followers

13,744

YouTube Channel
Subscribers

1,837

Instagram Followers

704,029

Website Page Views

Connect with us on social media
@alabamaarchives!



17,452

Email Subscribers

> Staffing

67

Full-Time Staff



2,942

Hours
Contributed by
32 Volunteers

Collect

The ADAH collects records and artifacts that document the stories and experiences of Alabamians throughout history. These materials become part of our permanent collections and belong to all the citizens of our state.

THE ADAH COLLECTS:

- » **GOVERNMENT RECORDS:** Official records documenting the decisions and actions of government, including the state constitutions, legislation, minutes of boards and commissions, and reports.
- » **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:** Non-governmental records created by families, individuals, and organizations that describe events in Alabama or document the lives of Alabamians. These include letters, diaries, scrapbooks, photographs, maps, and video and audio recordings.
- » **ARTIFACTS:** A wide range of three-dimensional objects documenting Alabama people and places, from quilts and uniforms to portraits and political ephemera.
- » **REFERENCE MATERIALS:** Books and other reference materials that focus primarily on Alabama.
- » **DIGITAL NEWSPAPERS:** Daily and weekly titles from across the state documenting daily life in communities.
- » **STATE AGENCY ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS:** Periodic publications that report state government activities.

Terms To Know:

COLLECTION

A single item or group of items in the permanent care of the ADAH.

ACCESSION

To accept legal ownership of materials for addition to the permanent collections.

1 ARCHIVAL

**CUBIC FOOT BOX =
12" x 15" x 10"**

COLLECTIONS ACCESSIONED IN FY25	COLLECTIONS	VOLUME
Government Records (Paper)	28	124 cubic feet
Government Records (Electronic)	115	63.93 gigabytes
Special Collections (Paper)	105	204 cubic feet
Special Collections (Electronic)	10	17.86 gigabytes
Artifact Collections	80	955 objects
TOTAL	338	

OTHER MATERIALS ACQUIRED	QUANTITY
Digital Newspapers	3,908 issues
State Agency Publications	759 documents; 2.85 gigabytes
Books and other materials	127 Items

Did you know?

In addition to print and microfilmed newspaper collections, the ADAH collects digital newspapers through its **Newspaper Preservation Program**.

To learn more or to enroll your publication, call (334) 242-4364.

The ADAH offers free in-person access to its newspaper collections and to Newspapers.com in the EBSCO Research Room!

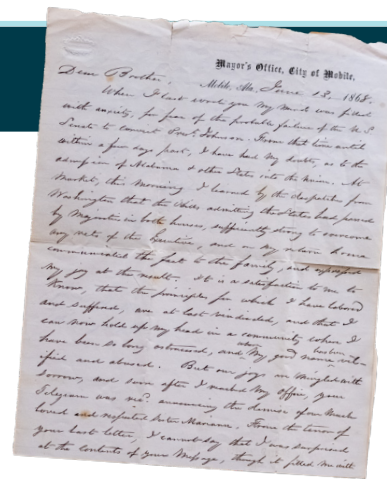
> Interested in Donating Materials to the ADAH?

Contact Registrar Haley Aaron at haley.aaron@archives.alabama.gov or (334) 353-4726.

> NEW COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS

Gustavus Horton Letter

Written by Mobilian Gustavus Horton to his brother on June 13, 1868, this letter offers insight into the Reconstruction era along the Gulf Coast. Once a respected businessman, Horton faced ostracism and brief incarceration due to his Unionist sympathies during the Civil War. In this letter, written a year after U.S. military officials appointed him mayor of Mobile, Horton reflects gratefully on the state's readmission to the Union, writing, "It is a satisfaction to me to know that the principles for which I have labored and suffered are at last vindicated." The letter was purchased using funds provided by the nonprofit Friends of the Alabama Archives.



Ann Perry Reid Portrait

This portrait of Ann Perry Reid was painted in the late 1840s or early 1850s by Nicola Marschall, one of the state's most prolific antebellum artists. Research suggests that the portrait was painted shortly after Ann moved to Perry County and married John Reid at age sixteen. Known for his true-to-life depictions, Marschall captures the young bride's wealth and beauty. Anne Lanier Suttle, a descendant of the Reids, donated the portrait to the ADAH.

George Washington Carver Etching

This etching of George Washington Carver, donated to the ADAH by Delores R. Boyd, was made by Birmingham native Felix Benjamin Duncan Gaines in 1946. Gaines became one of Alabama's most well-known Black artists, praised for his

work with the Works Progress Administration and the Alabama Defense Council. To create this piece, Gaines developed a special technique he called "psycho beautigraph" etching, which produced a great level of detail. Gaines spent several years raising funds to place copies of the etching in Black churches and schools throughout the South, hoping to inspire a new generation with Carver's story.



Scarborough Family Quilts

As a child, Auburn quilter Kim Scarborough learned to quilt from her great-grandmother, Coffee County native Hortense "Tensey" Morris Helms, during an annual visit to her farm. Tensey taught Kim to quilt using the Tumbling Block pattern, which requires precision and close attention to detail. As she taught Kim to stitch the challenging Y seam, Tensey told her, "Darlin', if you can sew this, you can sew anything." Kim donated two Tumbling Block quilts to the Archives: one that Tensey pieced from scraps of the family's clothing when Kim graduated from high school, and the first quilt Kim made—a baby quilt for her son, Benjamin.



Sidney Lanier High School Memory Book

From 1918 to 1919, Annie Myrtle "Muttsy" Bowdoin, later Hutchings, compiled this memory book during her senior year at Sidney Lanier High School in Montgomery. Muttsy used illustrations, photographs, handwritten notes, and newspaper clippings to document her experiences. Several entries reflect her friendship with Zelda Sayre, a fellow graduate of Sidney Lanier who later married author F. Scott Fitzgerald. The book also includes a note and photographs related to Hubert C. Hutchings, whom Muttsy married in 1923. After their marriage, the couple lived in Montgomery for several years before moving to Mobile and eventually settling in Dothan, where Muttsy died in 1993. The Hutchings' granddaughter, Patricia Smith, donated the book to the ADAH.





Romay Johnson Davis Collection

World War II veteran Romay Johnson Davis was a member of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only Black Women's Army Corps unit to serve overseas. After the war ended, Davis led a life reflective of her varying interests and commitment to service. She met her husband, Tuskegee native Jerry Davis, in 1957, during her 30-year career in fashion design at Glen of Michigan. In the 1980s, the couple moved to Montgomery, where Davis continued to design clothes, study art, and participate in church and community life. Davis never retired; she continued to work and pursue new interests until she died in 2024 at the age of 104. In her 70s, she started Taekwondo lessons and earned a second-degree black belt. At 81, she applied for a job at the Vaughn Road Winn-Dixie in Montgomery and worked at the store for the next twenty years. Davis's collection includes photographs and artifacts from her military service, her fashion designs, her Taekwondo uniform and belts, and her Winn-Dixie apron. The Davis family and Stacia Robinson donated the collection to the ADAH.

WWII Field Organ

Compact field organs like this one were used by military chaplains to provide music during worship services in the field. Built for portability, field organs featured metal reeds instead of pipes and could be easily carried to remote or makeshift locations. This organ belonged to Irondale native Roy Gene Bartlett, who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He brought the organ home after his discharge in 1946. The organ, donated to the Archives by Scott Wright, is on display in the new *Alabama Military Stories* gallery in the Museum of Alabama.



Letter Sweater and Football

The Archives recently acquired a signed football and letter sweater worn by Ozark native Wilbur Jackson. In 1970, Jackson became the first African American player to be offered a football scholarship to the University of Alabama. A talented running back, he averaged 7.2 yards per carry during his college tenure from 1971 to 1973. In 1974, he was a first-round NFL draft pick, selected by the San Francisco 49ers. Jackson played in the NFL for eight seasons, retiring after a 1982 Super Bowl win with the Washington Redskins. After his retirement, he returned to his hometown. We are grateful to Mr. Jackson for his donation, and to his childhood friend, James Reid, for encouraging the donation.

Transmittal Highlight: DCNR Maps & State Park Plans

A February 2025 transmittal from the Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) included 18 sets of maps and records detailing public lands managed by DCNR. Created between 1935 and 2022, most of the map sets are Alabama State Park master plans outlining long-term visions for the parks and including proposed layouts and construction requirements. Civilian Conservation Corps workers used these plans to build and renovate many of the state's park facilities during the Great Depression, including Gulf State Park, Cheaha State Park, and Monte Sano State Park. >> [Find recently digitized promotional content from DCNR on page 15.](#)



Term To Know:

TRANSMITTAL:
The official transfer of custody of permanent records from a government agency to the ADAH's collection.

> CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS



How Does the ADAH Preserve Its Collections?

Archivists and curators use several essential tools to maintain the ADAH's collections and ensure their preservation for future generations, including displaying, storing, and monitoring them in controlled, fire-protected areas with proper light, temperature, and humidity levels. Acid-free tissue, boxes, and folders ensure item-level protection. FY25 was a significant year for conservation of museum collections; several large items received conservation treatment prior to display in our new Museum of Alabama galleries.

Both of the flags at left were presented to the ADAH by Alabama Adjutant General Hartley A. Moon in 1919.

167th Infantry National Flag

The U.S. flag carried by the 167th Infantry Regiment during World War I was cleaned, humidified, and put into a pressure-mount framing system to prepare it for display in the new *Alabama Military Stories* exhibit (above). Formerly the 4th Alabama National Guard, the 167th joined the 42nd Rainbow Division of the U.S. Army and became one of the first American units committed to combat in France. The 167th accounted for 73 percent of Alabamians who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War I.

366th Infantry Flag

The silk regimental flag carried by the 366th U.S. Infantry in France (blue, above) received cleaning and conservation to address faded and unstable areas, and it was also pressure-mounted for display in *Alabama Military Stories*. More than 2,000 Alabamians served with the 366th, a segregated African American regiment of the 92nd Buffalo Soldier Division. The 366th saw action in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, one of the last major Allied operations of World War I, and they engaged German forces in the Marbache Sector on the final morning of the war, November 11, 1918.



Sardine Graham Stone Uniform

This coat, which belonged to 1st Lt. Sardine Graham Stone of Mobile, is part of a Confederate naval officer's uniform that has been conserved for return to display in *Alabama Voices*. Conservators cleaned the uniform, improved old repairs, and secured structural damage. A special lining support was added to protect the interior of the coat from abrasion when it is dressed and undressed on its custom mount. Stone served from 1862 to October 1864 as navigator on the cruiser CSS *Florida*.

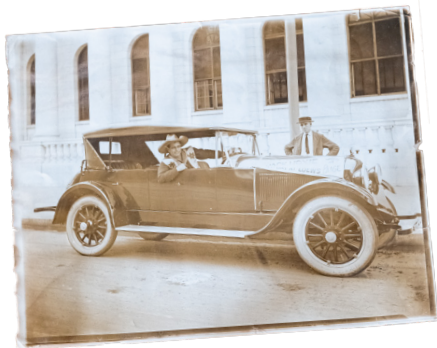
William McIntosh Portrait

This 1821 portrait of Creek leader William McIntosh has helped to illustrate the meeting of Native and European cultures in *Alabama Voices* since 2014. McIntosh himself commissioned the portrait, which measures nearly 8.5 feet high and 5.5 feet wide. Conservators recently cleaned the painting, removed the old varnish, corrected previous re-touching, and applied fresh varnish. The canvas was re-stretched to remove wrinkles, and damage to the frame was repaired. The portrait returned to display in *Alabama Voices* in 2025.



> PROCESSED COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS

Below are examples of the 128 archival collections that were organized and cataloged in FY25 and are now available to researchers in the EBSCO Research Room. Visit archives.alabama.gov/research/explore/.



Preston Motor Corporation Photographs

This collection of photographs offers rare glimpses of a short-lived Alabama business: the Preston Motor Corporation. The company was founded in 1919 by Preston Orr as a southern competitor to Detroit-based car manufacturers. A Tennessee native, Orr briefly lived in Montgomery before relocating to Birmingham in 1917 to establish his new luxury car manufacturing company there. The Preston Motor Corporation had a quick rise and fall in the early 1920s; it existed for only four years and made fewer than 450 vehicles. Included in the photograph collection are snapshots of the company's Premocar Roadster, as well as images of a car built for President Warren G. Harding's 1921 visit to Birmingham for the city's 50th anniversary celebration.

I. G. Leighton Reeves Papers

The papers of Coffeetown native I. G. Leighton Reeves document an Alabama soldier's service and shed light on the importance of connections with home for active-duty service members. Reeves served as an Army combat medic in the 342nd Engineering Regiment, a post that took him to France, Belgium, and Germany in World War II. He participated in the D-Day invasion of France and in the Battle of the Bulge. After receiving his discharge in November 1945, Reeves served in the Alabama National Guard 31st Military Police Company. He rejoined the Army during the Korean War and achieved the rank of Sergeant. After his honorable discharge in August 1952, Reeves returned to Alabama and taught high school social studies in Mobile and Clarke counties.



Have you been following the Reeves collection in our social media and email updates?

COLLECT

Acquired in FY24

Donated by Reeves's daughter, Mary Reeves Shirey



PRESERVE

Processed in FY25

Described, cataloged, and stored in acid-free sleeves, folders, and boxes



SHARE

Shared in FY25

The full collection is now available in the EBSCO Research Room, and several items are available online in our digital collections.



31st Infantry Division Collection

The 31st Infantry "Dixie" Division, organized in 1917 from National Guard units in the southeastern United States, served in World War I and later in the Pacific during World War II, seeing action in New Guinea, Morotai Island, and the Philippines under Alabamian Major General John C. Persons. After multiple reorganizations and periods of activation, including stateside service during the Korean War, the division was deactivated in 1968. This collection, compiled and donated by Chris Rein, covers a period from 1926 to 1993 and documents the history of the division with yearbooks, a photograph album, and several other publications.

Spyros “Sam” Rombokas Papers

Spyros “Sam” Rombokas was born in 1893 in Greece and immigrated to the United States in 1919. He worked various jobs throughout the U.S., including in Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, before moving to Alabama. He lived for a brief time in Opelika, where he began working at the Opelika Fruit Company in 1919. The next year, Sam bought the City Café in Roanoke, which he operated for the next fifty years. He married Lucy Johnson in 1923. In 1932, Sam officially became an American citizen.

His papers consist of correspondence, photographs, financial records, printed materials, and postcards dating from 1901 to 2006. During his life, Sam remained in touch with his Greek family. Many items in the collection are written in Greek, and common topics include the health of family members, financial support to his family, and contributions that Sam made towards the construction of a church in his Greek village.



Sara Haardt Mencken Papers

Ranked among the likes of Montgomery natives Zelda Fitzgerald and Sara Mayfield, writer Sara Haardt Mencken is best known for her short stories, essays, and novel *The Making of a Lady* (1931). She was born on March 1, 1898, to Venetia Hall and John Anton Haardt in Montgomery. She attended the Margaret Booth School and Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland. Sara’s fiction is replete with descriptions of the South, with her Alabama upbringing informing much of her work. Through her work at Goucher, she met author H. L. Mencken. The two were married in 1930. Sara’s papers include three of her short stories, two letters, and two wedding invitations.

Martha Poole Simmons Veteran Interviews Collection

After a 32-year career in teaching, Martha Poole Simmons began volunteering at the American Red Cross and the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System. During this time, she began interviewing veterans about their military experiences and writing their biographies. These biographies are published in the *Alabama Gazette* in the “Honoring Our Heroes” column. The Simmons collection, a **born-digital collection**, contains photographs and information about the awards, assignments, experiences, education, and personal lives of more than 260 veterans.



Electronic Records Collections

ELECTRONIC RECORDS:

Also known as **born-digital** records, electronic records are originally produced digitally, not digitized from an analog format. Electronic records like the Simmons collection require a special electronic preservation environment to provide long-term protection against file deterioration. The same system provides public access at adah.access.preservica.com.

In FY25:

6,324 Electronic Records Users

98,521 Page Views

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS:

Though presented electronically, digital collections consist of materials that were originally produced on paper, film, or tape and were later scanned and digitized to provide online access.

< Recognize Romay Davis at far left?
Learn more about her collection on page 10.

> RESEARCH AT THE ADAH



The ADAH provides access to its vast permanent collections in the EBSCO Research Room, which is open to all members of the public. Staff provide free assistance to in-person patrons and, for a small fee, will fulfill research requests submitted by phone and email on any Alabama history topic. Free Research Consultations are available to help researchers beginning large projects to make the most of their time at the Archives.

In FY25:

1,082 Patrons Visited
the EBSCO Research Room

4,081 Inquiries Answered
By Email, Mail, & Phone

117 Research Consultations
Completed

Notable FY25 Reference Trends

- » Family History & Genealogy
- » Academic Research
- » Government & Legal Research
- » State Agency Business
- » Local Property Research

Permissions Requests & Reproduction Orders

From documentary filmmakers to book publishers and museums, content producers from around the world request permission to use materials from the ADAH's permanent collections. Although low-resolution items are free to download for personal or educational use, high-resolution files are available only by submitting an Order Form and Use Agreement.

293 Permissions Requests Fulfilled

1,324 Collection Items Included in Fulfilled
Orders or Permissions Requests

> **The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30am to 4:30pm.**

Appointments are not required, but a Research Consultation in advance of a visit is encouraged.

> **Submit a research request or schedule a research consultation at archives.alabama.gov/research/.**

> DIGITIZATION HIGHLIGHTS

Explore Our Digital Collections > digital.archives.alabama.gov

976,855

Digitized Items
Available Online

121,853

Digitized Files
Created in FY25

245,549

Digital Collections
Users in FY25

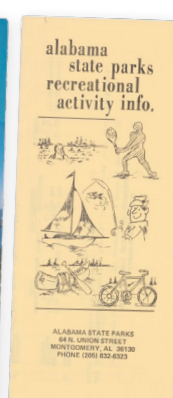
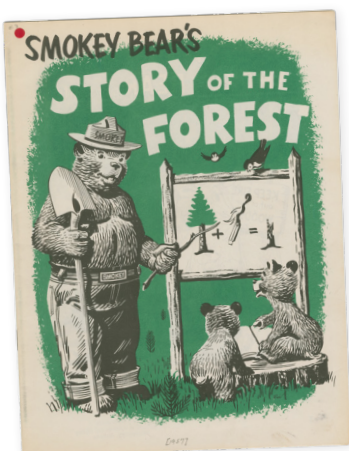
1,351,699

Digital Collections
Page Views in FY25

The ADAH makes digitized records and photographs, along with hundreds of hours of audiovisual materials, available to anyone with an Internet connection. While our digital assets team digitized a vast array of content documenting the daily lives of individual Alabamians in FY25, they also made available many collections created by government agencies. From official publications created by Alabama's air bases during World War II to pamphlets, activity books, and reports from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources throughout the 20th century, these collections are much more than official correspondence and budgets; they reveal how governments and institutions engaged their constituents and the public. The collections below illustrate how public and private collections can work together, building on each other to help make the story of our state more complete.

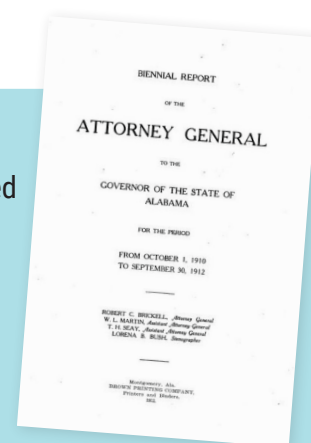
Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Publications, 1910s-2000s

This recently digitized batch of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) publications includes promotional brochures for Alabama's state parks, educational pamphlets, activity books, newsletters, and more. They not only illustrate how a government agency reaches out to engage citizens of all ages; they also tell the story of the agency itself. The DCNR is the successor of past agencies including the Department of Conservation (1939-1971) and the Department of Game and Fish (1907-1919). Several items in this collection date to the 1910s and the earliest iteration of DCNR. >>Several DCNR maps and state park plans were recently transmitted to the ADAH (see page 10).



> GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP: OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

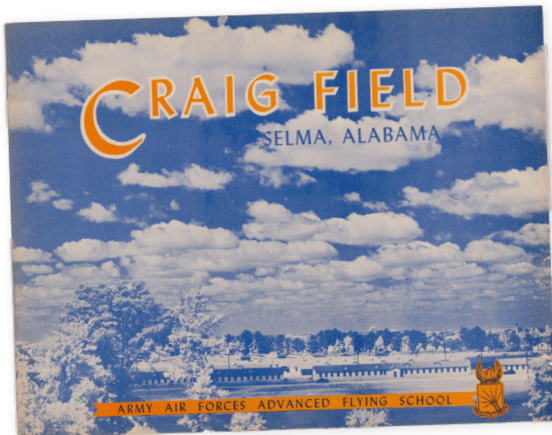
Through a partnership with the Alabama Attorney General's Office, ADAH archivists have completed a year-long effort to make nearly a century of the Attorney General's reports available online. These reports were submitted biennially from the 1890s, then quarterly after 1930, to Alabama's governor, and they include the Attorney General's opinions on legal matters and information on the office's administrative activities. The 18 biennial reports and 180 quarterly reports digitized in FY25 reflect the office's activities during several significant moments in Alabama history, from October 1894 through September 1980, and will be valuable resources for scholars and researchers.



> DIGITIZATION HIGHLIGHTS

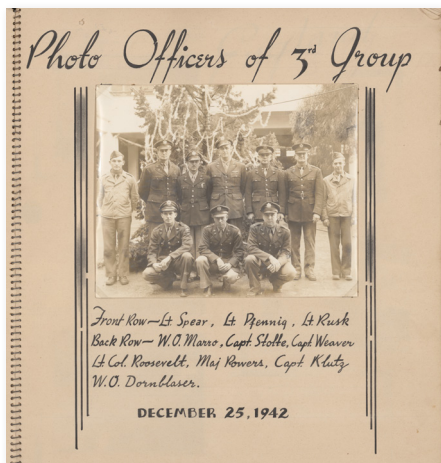
Souvenir Photo Book, Maxwell Field, ca. 1940

This souvenir booklet contains photos of planes, facilities, and cadets training at Maxwell Field in Montgomery. In the summer of 1940, the U.S. Army Air Forces (AAF) established a flight training center at Maxwell Field to serve as headquarters for the Southeast Army Air Forces Training Center, which would oversee flight schools in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.



Flying School at Napier Field in Dothan. *Booster* provides a personal glimpse of life on base, including staff bios, squadron news, church bulletins, lost-and-found notices, and reports on sporting events. Cadets and staff featured their talents with sketches,

cartoons, poetry, and photographs.

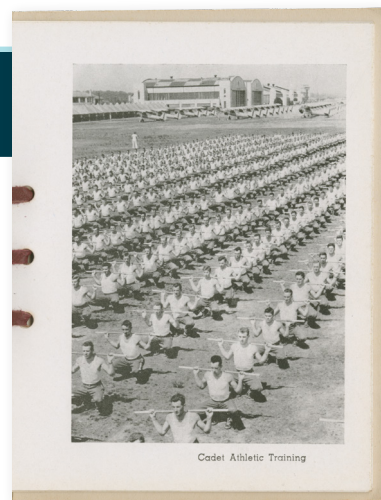


Promotional Pamphlets, Alabama Air Bases, 1940s

Alabama's five AAF bases played a significant role in training American and international pilots for World War II. This collection contains souvenir and promotional pamphlets for Gunter Field, Maxwell Field, Craig Field, and Napier Field.

Napier Field *Booster*, 1940s

This collection contains issues of *Booster*, the weekly publication of the AAF Advanced



Third Photographic Group Scrapbook, 1942

This scrapbook was compiled by Barron Powers, a 22-year-old Army veteran who re-enlisted in 1922 at Maxwell Field. Powers received an immediate assignment with the Army Air Service, a precursor to the AAF. From his home base in Panama, he photographed highways and volcanoes in Central America through the 1930s. He served with the Third Photographic Group in Morocco and Algeria during World War II and created this scrapbook of the Group's work and experiences.

> MEDIA PARTNERSHIP: WSFA-TV

In 2021, Montgomery's WSFA-TV donated more than 7,000 audiovisual items of the station's news footage to the Archives. The donation also included several thousand photographs of the work of the station: sets, cameras, news vehicles, and staff and reporters. The ADAH has digitized more than 1,000 of these images. Last December, after writing descriptions for these photos, archivist Debbie Pendleton arranged for a group of current and former WSFA staff members to visit and further identify the subjects depicted in the photos. The project was especially rewarding for Archives staff, who enjoyed meeting with station employees and hearing the stories these photos tell—stories that document the behind-the-scenes work of the station in ways that the newsreels often do not. Thank you to WSFA, to Debbie Pendleton, and this wonderful station crew!



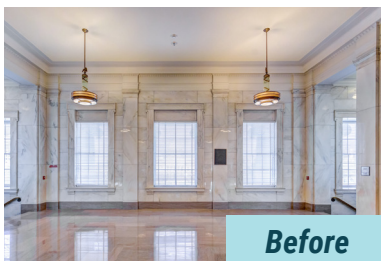
> MUSEUM OF ALABAMA RENOVATIONS



Colorful exterior and interior additions have made the Archives building more inviting and navigable for visitors.

Museum of Alabama Renovations

In FY25, progress on a capital project that has involved every space in the Museum of Alabama, and every part of the Archives' mission, reached several significant milestones. This year's work revealed the results of planning, development, and design work that has been underway since 2022. After a 12-month period of construction, the Museum reopened to the public on November 7, 2025.



Before



During



After

The new Museum Lobby, on the Archives' second floor, features a stunning ceiling sculpture inspired by Alabama's state quilt pattern, the Pine Burr. Designers and fabricators with The PRD Group and 1220 Exhibits created a structural system that would

support the sculpture's sound-dampening tiles, and the result is a light, functional feat of engineering. The vibrant sculpture introduces the central idea for the Museum and underscores the mission of the Archives: **here, each piece of Alabama's history is stitched together to form the complex, multi-layered story of our state.**

> VISITORS & RENOVATIONS: Galleries in the Museum of Alabama began closing for renovations in November 2024. *Alabama Voices* closed in May 2025. Visitation numbers reflect these closures. After the Museum reopened in November, visitation increased three-fold over the same month in 2024.

4,449 General Visitors
 2,336 Alabamians
 1,784 Other U.S. States
 329 International

17,175 Tour Visitors
 16,458 K-12
 717 Other Group Tours

21,624
 Total Museum Visitors
 in FY25

> MUSEUM OF ALABAMA RENOVATIONS



Children's Gallery

Highlights of the former Museum experience for families were the *Hands-On Gallery* and its *Grandma's Attic*, which offered learning and play activities for young children but had not been updated since the 1980s. The gallery closed in December 2024 to begin deinstallation and construction work to completely transform the space, giving new life to the most popular activities from *Grandma's Attic* and expanding learning opportunities throughout the gallery.

Fabricators from 1220 Exhibits repurposed an adjoining office and utility closet to create a limestone cave, which anchors an ecology wall that encourages children to explore the ecosystems that make our state unique. Around the gallery's perimeter, new play spaces invite young visitors to learn how Alabamians lived, learned, and contributed to their communities throughout our state's history. Former *Grandma's Attic* visitors will recognize some items and



Before



Ecology Wall & Cave In Progress



activities! The 1220 team also constructed an interactive spacecraft that highlights our state's contributions to space exploration and underscores the role young Alabamians can play in our state's future.

A unique addition to the home play space is a child-size cast iron stove, made in Birmingham and acquired in FY25. Archives curators cleaned and restored the piece to ready it for years of "home-cooked" meals!



After

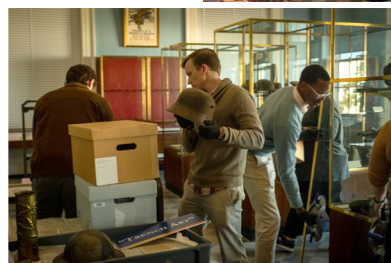
Alabama Military Stories

The former *Alabamians in the Great War* exhibit closed to the public after Veteran's Day 2024, and ADAH curators worked carefully and quickly to de-install the World War I artifacts that had been on display for a decade. A new layout envisioned by ADAH staff and exhibit designers at The PRD Group included the construction of a curved central wall and new display cases capable of accommodating large items, such as flags, quilts, and collections with multiple artifacts. Together, the structural changes to the space and new items added to the ADAH's collections made possible the expansion of the gallery's focus beyond the machinery of war to the stories of individual Alabamians—allowing the new *Alabama Military Stories* gallery to explore the state's connections to the military at home and abroad throughout our state's history, not just in World War I.

Fabricators and ADAH curators worked during FY25 to create custom mounts to display each artifact at the right height and angle for viewing behind glass and for long-term support and preservation. Monadnock Media producers interviewed active-duty service members, veterans, and families to create powerful videos to reinforce the gallery's themes of **service, community, and legacy**.



Before: Alabamians in the Great War



COLLECT: Since 2022, the ADAH has actively been seeking military collections, especially related to modern conflicts, to be able to share more stories of Alabamians in the 20th and 21st centuries. Veterans and families responded with overwhelming enthusiasm and generosity. We are grateful for the donations and loans of so many fascinating collections that enable us to tell the story of our state and its people better each day. See a few of those donations on pages 9 through 16.

PRESERVE: New items were processed, and others, like the ones on page 11, were conserved to prepare them for display.

SHARE: IN FY25, our curators and digital content producer photographed thousands of artifacts from multiple angles to populate new **digital labels** in *Alabama Military Stories* and *Alabama Voices*. Using our custom label screens, visitors can select the image of an item on display, learn more about it, access additional views, and even find supplemental materials from our digital collections.



> MUSEUM OF ALABAMA RENOVATIONS



Alabama Voices

Updates to the *Alabama Voices* gallery incorporated additional artifacts, graphics, and content designed for young visitors. New mural graphics and scenic elements were installed during FY25, and several artifacts returned from conservators.

The ADAH also commissioned three new pieces by Native artists for the gallery. These new items help to provide context for understanding the culture of Native peoples in Alabama, and how their interactions with Europeans and Americans shaped the early history of the state and nation.



This 1820s portrait of Andrew Jackson was cleaned and conserved in FY25 for return to display. Painted by Ralph E.W. Earl, the portrait has been part of the ADAH's collections since 1906.

Seminole artist Jake Tiger created reproduction clothing inspired by portraits of two Muscogee leaders, Hopothle Micco of Tallassee and Menawa of Okfuskee. In 1790, Hopothle Micco was one of the signers of the



Treaty of New York, the first treaty under the new U.S. Constitution. American artist John Trumbull drew a pencil sketch of Hopothle Micco during his time in New York. Almost thirty years later, Menawa traveled to Washington, D.C., to negotiate another treaty with the United States. There, Charles Bird King painted a portrait of Menawa (right) and several other prominent leaders of the Creek Nation. In creating the reproductions, Tiger completed the clothing ensembles, shown only partially in each portrait. The reproductions allow visitors to better visualize the lives and changing cultures of these two men and the peoples they represented.



In the Removal area of the gallery, a new painting by Muscogee artist Johnnie Diacon juxtaposes the grief and resilience of the Muscogee people as they traveled from Alabama to Indian Territory along the Trail of Tears. *The Sacred on the Trail* depicts the trail as foreign, lonely, and uncertain, but, at its center, the community surrounds their sacred fire, which represents life, perseverance, and a connection to home.



The ADAH will continue its partnership with Diacon for a set of murals for the new *First Peoples of Alabama* gallery, which will open in fall 2026. Collaboration with exhibit designers and an advisory group of scholars and tribal representatives continued in FY25.



> PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The ADAH promotes an improved awareness and understanding of Alabama history through a wide array of in-person and online public programs.

25

Public Programs
Presented in FY25,
totaling **32 hours**

1,417

People Attended a
Live Public Program
in FY25

3,724

Viewers of FY25
Program Recordings
on YouTube

PROGRAMS	HOURS	ATTENDANCE	YOUTUBE VIEWS IN FY25
LECTURE AND DISCUSSION SERIES			
<i>Food For Thought</i> Lunchtime Lecture Series	12	753	2,141
Book Talks	1	49	383
<i>History/Now: Conversations on the Past + Present</i>	1	48	Livestream Only
Archives Month Lecture	1.5	56	234
INSTRUCTIONAL SERIES			
<i>Research Rundown: History & Genealogy How-To</i> Online Series (Six 30-minute programs)	3	86	966
ANNUAL SPECIAL EVENTS			
Halloween at the Archives: A Spooktacular Family Event	2.5	102	
Alabama Day at the Archives	5	62	
Black History Month Saturday Family Event	5	226	

I Love to Save the Story: How to Preserve Your Church & Congregational Records

Mac Ice, Associate Professor of Library Science and Director of Special Collections & Archives at Abilene Christian University, presented a special 90-minute program at the Archives on October 22, 2024. *I Love to Save the Story: How to Preserve Your Church and Congregational Records* was part of the ADAH's observance of Archives Month, a national celebration of archivists' contributions to the preservation and accessibility of significant records. Church records often document pivotal moments of members' lives: births, marriages, deaths, baptisms, and more. The records that tell these stories are not only important for local communities but also have broader utility for scholars, researchers, and historians. Ice's presentation, made possible through a partnership with Faulkner University and the Alabama Humanities Alliance, explored practical steps to identify, gather, preserve, and share records that document congregational life.



I Love to Save the Story
SPECIAL ARCHIVES MONTH PROGRAM

> Watch this and other public programs at youtube.com/alabamaarchives.

> COMMUNITY EVENTS



Halloween at the Archives

The Archives welcomed 102 visitors to our third annual Halloween at the Archives event on October 25, 2024. Visitors of all ages enjoyed making themed crafts, exploring Alabama history with a scavenger hunt, book readings, and activity stations in the Museum of Alabama, and viewing “curious collections” in a special temporary exhibit. We are grateful to River Bank & Trust for sponsoring the event, which also included a popular snack-cake walk and dance party on the Archives' terrace!



Alabama Day at the Archives

A celebration of our state's 205th birthday brought 62 visitors to the *Hands-On Gallery* on December 14, 2024. The occasion doubled as a farewell event for Grandma's Attic, a popular destination for families with young children since the 1980s. Guests previewed plans for the new *Children's Gallery* and were introduced to the Archives' new animal friends, created by illustrator Michelle Hazelwood Hyde. These new friends, led by Camellia, a black bear who helped young Alabamians to celebrate the state's bicentennial in 2019, act as welcoming guides for the Museum of Alabama's youngest visitors.

African Americans & Labor: The Lives They Built

On Saturday, February 8, 2025, 226 visitors attended the ADAH's third annual Black History Month event, exploring the theme “African Americans & Labor: The Lives They Built”. The event featured a museum scavenger hunt, crafts, a temporary exhibit, and special presentations that highlighted the lives and culture African Americans created outside of their labor. Montgomery's Park Crossing High School Concert Chorale gave wonderful *a cappella* performances of spirituals like “Follow the Drinking Gourd” and “There is a Balm in Gilead” in our main lobby, and Mary McInnis, the first Black woman to serve as a County Executive Director for the USDA in Alabama, discussed her work, history, and community with ADAH education curator Richard Trammell.



The ADAH promotes an improved awareness and understanding of Alabama history with special events for families and partnerships with community organizations.



Ann Berry Portrait Unveiling Ceremony

New York artist Steve Alpert donated his portrait of Ann Berry, former Secretary of the U.S. Senate, to the ADAH in 2024. On January 28, 2025, the ADAH hosted a program to unveil the portrait to more than 65 of Berry's family members and friends. Berry became the 34th secretary of the Senate in 2021. She was the first African American to serve in this position and the eighth woman to hold the office. At the unveiling event, the Birmingham native reflected on her experiences and accomplishments: "It's not about me. It's about those who come after me." Berry's portrait will join the ADAH's permanent portrait collection and be displayed in the Archives' second-floor portrait gallery.

Lafayette Bicentennial Commemorations

The Archives hosted a reception and two programs, installed a temporary exhibit, and supported statewide events for the national commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the American tour of the Marquis de Lafayette. The Archives' *March Food for Thought* lecture, given by ADAH director emeritus Dr. Ed Bridges, explored Lafayette's Alabama visit with an in-person audience of 119 and an online audience of 61. On April 3, the ADAH hosted a reception and an installment of *History/Now: Conversations on the Past + Present*, a program series that explores connections between the present and the past. John Beaver, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Julien Icher, founder of The Lafayette Trail, Inc.; and historian Shari Williams participated in a panel discussion on the legacy of Lafayette's American tour.



The ADAH provided administrative support for statewide commemorations and coordinated a program and wreath-laying ceremony at the Capitol on April 3.

> K-12 SERVICES

K-12 Field Trips in FY25

"We had a great time learning about Alabama history! Hearing the kids talk about how much fun they were having while learning was awesome."

— Visiting Teacher



16,458

K-12 Visitors
Explored the
Museum of
Alabama

98%

Of Teachers
Surveyed Rated
Tour Experience
as "Excellent"

3,192

Students
Participated
in Virtual Field
Trips

Resources for Students & Educators

Trekking Through History Traveling Resources

These backpacks and trunks are designed to supplement the classroom learning experience. They correspond with the *Alabama Course of Study: Social Studies* standards, feature a variety of Alabama history topics, and arrive at schools filled with an assortment of learning tools including activity sheets, books, videos, and copies of original primary source materials. Backpacks and trunks are free to use; teachers pay only for shipping.

20 Traveling Resources Loaned in FY25 | 1,400 Students Served

Summer Library Programs

In summer 2025, ADAH education staff offered free, interactive programs for children ages 4-12 at public libraries across Alabama. This year's theme, *Color Your World*, featured programs on art and artifacts that tell the story of Alabama. Activities included book readings, dot portraits, and quilt design.

17 Programs Held at Alabama Libraries
294 Children Served

The Alabama History Hub

The Alabama History Hub is a one-stop K-12 educator resource offering primary sources, lesson plans, and classroom activities curated by ADAH staff. This custom database on the ADAH's website features a variety of filters that allow visitors to search for resources by time period, grade level, course of study standards, and more.

473 Resources Available
3,729 Page Views | 569 Resources Downloaded
alabamahistoryhub.org

The ADAH promotes an improved awareness and understanding of Alabama history by supporting social studies education in K-12 schools across the state.

Alabama HISTORY INSTITUTES 2025

8 Locations | **118 K-12 Educators Served** | **38 Counties Represented**



In June 2025, 118 Alabama K-12 educators representing 38 counties participated in the ADAH's eighth summer of Alabama History Institutes (AHI). Held in eight locations across the state, these three-day professional development workshops equipped public, private, and home school educators with resources and content to strengthen social studies instruction in their classrooms. Participants practiced teaching with primary sources, such as historical photographs and archival documents, and experienced first-hand the local history found in all corners of the state.

» **AHI participants receive professional development credit hours and a stipend.**

2025 AHI LOCATIONS

- » **ABBEVILLE:** Alabama History & STEM: A Perfect Match
- » **ANNISTON:** Mastering Primary Sources for Improving Student Engagement
- » **AUBURN:** Where it Happened: The Power of Place in History Instruction
- » **DECATUR:** Alabama Appetites: Connecting Food, Traditions, & History
- » **FLORENCE:** Industry, Soldiers, & Stories: Alabama and World War I
- » **MOBILE:** Alabama on the World Stage
- » **MONTEVALLO:** Feeling 22: Alabama's Path to Statehood
- » **MONTGOMERY:** Social Studies in the Literacy-Driven Classroom

Attending these workshops is so beneficial; the amount of information and resources that I walk away with is astounding. I love the details that are put into the lessons and the activities. What I learn during each day that guides me when planning my own lessons is more helpful than any other workshop I attend.
— AHI Participant

» **Summer 2026 applications are open on the ADAH website through March 5, 2026.**

> MUSEUM SERVICES

The ADAH's Museum Services staff offer free guidance on best practices for collections care and conservation, historical interpretation, and organizational administration for any Alabama history organization.

In FY25:

264

Consultations With Local
History Organizations

76

History Organizations
Served

35

Counties Represented

Museum Services Staff Provided Consultations to the Following in FY25:

Autauga County

Confederate Memorial Park
Old Autauga Historical Society

Baldwin County

Baldwin County Dept. of Archives & History
Daphne History Museum
Foley Railroad Museum
Holmes Medical Museum
Loxley Museum

Barbour County

Eufaula Heritage Association

Blount County

Blount County Memorial Museum

Bullock County

Josephine Arts Center

Calhoun County

Anniston Museum of Natural History
NPS–Freedom Riders Nat'l Monument

Chambers County

City of Lafayette

Clarke County

Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum

Clay County

Clay County Historical Society

Colbert County

Alabama Music Hall of Fame

Covington County

AIR Artists

Dallas County

Black Belt Community Foundation
Temple Mishkan Israel

DeKalb County/Cherokee County

Collinsville Museum of History

Elmore County

Elmore County Black History Museum
Elmore County Museum
Fort Toulouse & Fort Jackson Park
Kelly Fitzpatrick Center for the Arts

Escambia County

Escambia County Historical Society
Poarch Creek Indians Museum

Etowah County

Etowah County Historical Society
Gadsden Museum of Art & History
Gadsden Public Library

Henry County

Henry County Archives

Houston County

Carver Museum

Jackson County

Jackson County Circuit Court
Scottsboro Boys Museum

Jefferson County

Alabama Historical Radio Society
Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences
Birmingham Black Radio Museum
Sons of Union Veterans
Southern Vintage Fire Apparatus
Association

Temple Beth-El

Jefferson & Shelby Counties

Hoover Historical Society

Jefferson, St. Clair, & Shelby Counties

Leeds Historical Society

Lauderdale County

Florence Arts and Museums

Lee County

Smiths Station Historical Commission

Macon County

Shorter Heritage Center and Museum
The Ridge Macon Co. Archaeology Project

Madison County

Burritt on the Mountain
Historic Huntsville Foundation
North Alabama Railroad Museum
State Black Archives, Research Center, &
Museum

U.S. Space and Rocket Center

Marshall County

Albertville Museum
Guntersville Historical Society
Guntersville Museum

Mobile County

Alabama Contemporary Arts Center
Historic Mobile Preservation Society
Mobile Medical Museum

Monroe County

Monroe County Museum

Montgomery County

Landmarks Foundation
River Region Trails
Air University Library
Alabama State University Archives
JAG Corps School Heritage Room
Montgomery County Historical Society
Nursing Museum of Alabama
Rosa Parks Historic Home
Wilson Folmar Foundation Group

Montgomery, Dallas, & Lowndes Counties

NPS–Selma to Montgomery Interpretive
Centers

Morgan County

Somerville Museum

Shelby County

Wallace Center for Arts and Reconciliation

St. Clair County

Moody Museum

Tuscaloosa County

Bryce Hospital Museum

Washington County

Prestwick Preservation Society
St. Stephens Historical Park

Wilcox County

Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center

Statewide

Alabama Genealogical Society

> RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The ADAH's Records Management section offers records training to state and local government and higher education staff. Attendees learn about records law in Alabama and identify best practices for maintaining, storing, and disposing of their records.

In FY25:

PARTICIPATING ENTITIES	SESSIONS	ATTENDEES
State Agencies, District Attorney Offices, and Colleges & Universities	50	303
Local Governments	21	835

Terms To Know:

RECORDS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY (RDA):

This document approved by the State Records and Local Government Records Commissions establishes disposition requirements by designating government records as either temporary records, which may be legally destroyed after a specified period, or permanent records, which must be preserved in perpetuity.

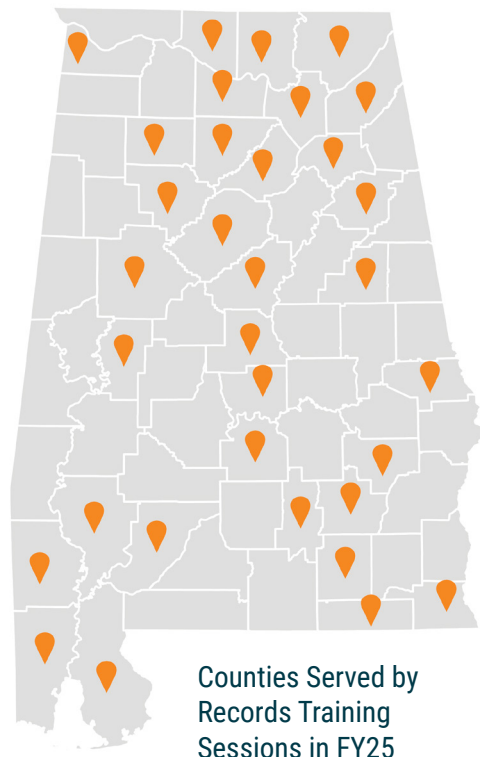
RDA IMPLEMENTATION REPORT:

State agencies, district attorneys' offices, and public colleges and universities are required to submit this annual report summarizing records activities from the previous fiscal year, including information about records destroyed.

7

State Agency RDAs Approved:

- » Alabama Board of Cosmetology & Barbering
- » Alabama Board of Funeral Services
- » Alabama Law Enforcement Agency
- » Alabama Securities Commission
- » Alabama Surface Mining Commission
- » Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee/Alabama Agricultural and Conservation Development Commission/Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- » Legislative Services Agency & Legislative Council



RDA IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS

State Agencies	160
District Attorney Offices	45
Colleges & Universities	35

STATE RECORDS CENTER

Total Records Holdings	38,618 cubic feet
Agencies Using Services	24
Records Requests Fulfilled in FY25	6,860

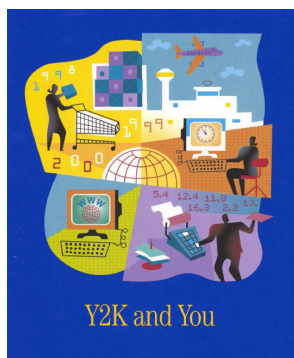
1,659 State Agency & Local Government Inquiries Resolved

> TEMPORARY EXHIBITS

Though the Museum of Alabama was closed for renovations for the last half of FY25, curators assembled a variety of temporary exhibits to highlight new collections and to commemorate several historic occasions.

Y2K and You

In October 2024, the ADAH installed a new temporary exhibit celebrating Archives Month and the approaching 25th anniversary of the year 2000. The exhibit included photos and documents that provided a glimpse of how Alabamians readied computer systems, personal finances and health records, and even state retirement records, as the world approached a new millennium.



Museum of Alabama Renovations

During renovations to the Museum, the second floor of the ADAH was closed to the public. To provide a welcoming spot for visitors, exhibit curators created a temporary exhibit on the ADAH's first floor to preview the types of artifacts and themes that would be part of the new galleries.

Among the items featured in the exhibit were the beloved toys of two generations of children in the Bliss family of Birmingham (above). A miniature cast-iron stove set, doll clothing, and furniture suggested the play and learning that would soon take place in the new *Children's Gallery*. Romay Davis' collection (page 10) was also on display in this exhibit, to preview the themes found in the new *Alabama Military Stories* gallery. The exhibit was on view from May to November 2025.

Lafayette in Alabama



Four decades after fighting alongside George Washington and the Continental Army in the American Revolution, the Marquis de Lafayette made a hero's return to the United States in 1824. Hailed as both benefactor and friend of the American people, the French nobleman embarked on a 13-month tour of the country at the invitation of Pres. James Monroe. To commemorate the bicentennial of his farewell tour, the ADAH presented a temporary exhibit featuring artifacts from the Marquis' 1825 travels through Alabama. This exhibit, which was on display from March to September 2025, continues as an interactive digital exhibit.

Gee's Bend Quilts

Several Gee's Bend quilts from the Archives' permanent collections joined four quilts from the Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy's *Airing of the Quilts* exhibition series for a joint exhibit on March 22, 2025. The Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy's quilts were on display through May 31.



Digital Exhibits Launched in FY25

» ***Lafayette in Alabama*** » ***Women's Work: The Lives & Legacies of Alabama's Trailblazing Women***

View all of our digital exhibits at archives.alabama.gov/visit/exhibits/online.aspx.

> OUTREACH

Fort Toulouse — Fort Jackson
Frontier Days

1,561
K-12 Students
Visited ADAH's Booth

Rosa Parks Museum
Juneteenth Celebration

200
People Visited
ADAH's Booth

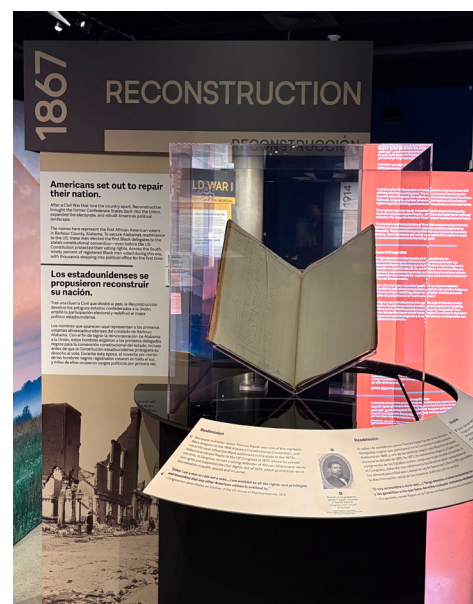
The ADAH shares information, resources, and collections through participation in community events and loans to other institutions.

ADAH Collection on Display at History Colorado Center

An artifact from our collections was one of fifty artifacts chosen for a temporary exhibit at History Colorado Center in Denver, Colorado. An 1867 voter registration list from Barbour County (right) joins other artifacts representing significant moments that shaped the United States. The exhibit, *Moments that Made US*, assembles artifacts from across eight centuries and such varying locations as Mesa Verde, Jamestown, Valley Forge, Appomattox Court House, Washington, D.C., Ebbets Field, the moon, and more.

The 1867 voter registration book represents the congressional Reconstruction period, when federal officials oversaw the registration of eligible voters in former Confederate states to prepare for elections to new constitutional conventions. The Barbour County register is one of 131 county registration volumes in our collections, which are among the earliest of our state's government records to document the names of formerly enslaved African American men alongside those of white men, as free citizens.

> **Moments That Made US will be on display until October 18, 2026.**



ADAH Collections at Other Institutions

The ADAH often lends materials from its permanent collections to other museums and institutions to help them better tell the stories of Alabamians. Items from our collections were on display or available for use at the following locations in FY25.

- » Africatown Heritage House
- » Alabama Cattlemen's Association MOOseum
- » Alabama Governor's Mansion
- » Alabama State Capitol
- » Alabama Supreme Court and State Law Library
- » Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis Home
- » Confederate Memorial Park
- » Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum
- » Elmore County Historical Society and Museum
- » Fort Morgan
- » Gettysburg National Military Park
- » Juliette Hampton Morgan Memorial Library
- » Lawrence County Archives
- » Madison County Archives
- » Montgomery County Archives
- » Tannehill State Park/Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama
- » Tuscaloosa County Probate Court
- » United States District Courthouse, Montgomery
- » USS *Alabama* Battleship Memorial Park

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